

Message Text

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22-11

ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 NEA-10 FEA-01

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INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNEP, SENV

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN CANDIDACY FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECT, UNEP

1. USUN RECEIVED ON JANUARY 19 AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT'S REQUEST FOR USG SUPPORT FOR CANDIDATURE OF DR. D.F. MCMICHAEL FOR THE POSITION OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UNEP. TEXT FOLLOWS AS PARAGRAPH 3.

2. UNEP EXECUTIVE DIRECTORSHIP WAS PREVIOUSLY HELD BY CANADIAN MAURICE STRONG AND IS TEMPORARILY FILLED BY TOLBA (EGYPT). UNEP IS PROVIDING MAJOR RESOURCES FOR HABITAT CONFERENCE TO MEET IN VANCOUVER IN LATE MAY. THE AUSTRALIANS HAVE PLAYED AN ACTIVE AND GENERALLY CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE DURING HABIBAT PREPCOM II NOW MEETING IN NEW YORK AND SCHEDULED TO END JANUARY 23. TO RESPOND TO AUSTRALIAN AND OTHER WEO GOVERNMENT QUERIES, REQUEST YOUR COMMENTS ASAP.

3. TEXT OF AUSTRALIAN NOTE FOLLOWS: QUOTE
THE PERMANENT MISSION OF AUSTRALIA TO THE
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UNITED NATIONS PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE MISSIONS OF

MEMBERS OF THE GROUP OF WESTERN EUROPEAN AND OTHER STATES AND HAS THE HONOUR TO INFORM THEM THAT THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO PUT FORWARD THE NAME OF DR D. F. MCMICHAEL, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF ENVIRONMENT, AS A CANDIDATE FOR APPOINTMENT AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME.

THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT THE GROUP OF WESTERN EUROPEAN AND OTHER STATES WILL WISH TO FIELD A CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION AND THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR THE GROUP TO COME TO A DECISION TO THIS EFFECT AT AN EARLY STAGE, PREFERABLY BEFORE THE MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME IN MARCH 1976. IT BELIEVES, FURTHER, THAT A GROUP CANDIDATE SHOULD HAVE SUBSTANTIAL EXPERIENCE IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD AND A THOROUGH FAMILIARITY WITH THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME.

IT IS WITH THESE CONSIDERATIONS IN MIND THAT THE CANDIDATURE OF DR MCMICHAEL IS NOW BEING OFFERED. THE SUPPORT OF THE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP OF WESTERN EUROPEAN AND OTHER STATES FOR THIS CANDIDATURE IS REQUESTED.

DR MCMICHAEL WILL BE IN NEW YORK IN THE WEEK BEGINNING 19 JANUARY FOR THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR HABITAT: UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS.

A COPY OF DR MCMICHAEL'S CURRICULUM VITAE IS ATTACHED.
(CV POUCHES OES/ENP - C. HERTER)

NEW YORK 15 JANUARY 1976

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